



Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

Post Office Box 475656, San Francisco, CA 94147-5656

• Founded 1915 • A Non-profit Educational Corporation •

Minutes of the PCNS Meetings of August 23, 2017

Status — Approved at the September 27th 2017 Board Meeting

Board Meeting

The Board Meeting was called to order at 7PM by President Hyder; officers present included Dan Hipple, Stephen Huston, Herb Miles, Bob Somers, and Ed Treuting.

Both the July Minutes and the latest Financial Report were accepted as distributed.

It was noted that David Lange will speak in September, but we still lack an October speaker.

Herb Miles submitted a bill for drawing prizes in the amount of \$25 which was approved by the Board and paid by Recorder Huston.

There being nothing further items for action, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06, for a break before the general meeting.

Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 with additional attendees present: Federico Castillo, Mark Wm Clark, Jason Macario, and Jerry Schimmel.

President Hyder announced that he had received the TAMS Medal of Merit as well as his ANA 50 Year Membership award at the recent ANA convention. He then presented Jerry Schimmel with a TAMS literary prize for his recent article on Chinatown exnumia in the TAMS Journal.

Federico Castillo gave the evening's presentation on Latin American token denominations.

He described how tokens with different denominations sometimes refer to the very same units, but the terms vary from one area to another based on dialect and local usage of different names. Many tokens were issued based on specific work performed, such as amounts harvested, or fields cleared of weeds. Basing token issuance on a specific task or measurable unit of work removed the need to supervise every worker's locale to track their time. If one could see that the work had been done, the token was given, without any need to oversee work in progress.

Token denominations are found for specific weights of sugarcane and coffee delivered to the weighing station, also for specific field sizes cleared or groomed. Some tokens were for specific size containers delivered filled, others for units of tobacco leaves stemmed and bunched.

Some tokens are known for local transportation systems, including one-way and round-trip fares on barges or ferries, or just for tolls to cross at some locations. There are even tokens for personal passes to race track locations, and, of course, for beer, sometimes specifically for an iced bucket of 5 bottles.

Federico noted that most of the plantation tokens were often, sometimes exclusively, redeemable at the company store run by the plantation, usually at inflated prices, though conveniently located for workers.

Federico had a couple of dozen tokens as examples of the pieces described in his presentation.

Following a short break, other members exhibited various numismatic items.

- Jerry brought Latin-American tokens with Chinese names and inscriptions: Mexican tokens from the Revolutionary period, and from Nicaragua, Panama, and Peru, noting that some were produced in SF or the USA, some in Germany.
- Ed brought lighthouse medals: a pair from Uruguay for the opening of a rail line, one from Argentina for public service, and from Cuba showing Havana harbor.
- Mark's flea-market finds included a counterstamped Venezuela 5-centimos, a New Orleans Mint medal, and an example of Kappen #1: from Saugus for Callahan's Indian Village.
- Jason showed a recently-received US Mint "enhanced" 2017-S "Uncirculated set" with frosted fields and proof lettering.
- Herb had an example of the US 225-Year "American Liberty" medal with an African-American "portrait" obverse, dated 1792–2017.
- Bill brought ANA acquisitions: sample NGC slab with special tag honoring David Lange as ANA Numismatist of the Year (Lange is an employee of NGC). Also aSFFD special award dated April 28 1906, issued to a Fireman who rescued an "orphan" from the earthquake and fire ruins, allowing her to be reunited with her surviving parent. Plus a salesman's sample of a Moise token.
- Stephen had a mystery token which he had recently identified as a transportation token from Hungary issued in 1933, designed by the head engraver of their national mint, noting that it had only one-letter abbreviations with the date, arms, and a winged wheel. He also had a Dakota Territory Centennial half-dollar token issued for the event of 1961, but with an expiration date of Dec 31, 1960!
- Dan brought an oversize bronze medal designed by Victor D. Brenner in 1904, but minted in 1906, which he recently acquired from the Talmadge Collection sale.

Drawing

There were 5 prizes. Jason got a Canadian 1974 Prestige Specimen Set. Federico got a pattern ECCU which anticipated later Euros. Ed won a US Mint Set, Jason also got a bag of 7 foreign coins, and Ed got a combo package of a bookmark and token of the IOF (Independent Order of Foresters). The drawing brought in \$45.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Submitted by Stephen Huston, *PCNS Recorder*